

CLAIMS

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1. A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method comprising:
forming a first packet containing information generated over a first duration;
and
in response to a predetermined event, forming a second packet containing information generated over a second duration, the second duration being longer than the first duration.

10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
information for the first packet and information for the second packet is received from a common information generator.

15 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
information for the first packet is generated by an information generator different from another information generator that generates information for the second packet.

20 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold of processing requirements in a device that receives the first packet and the second packet.

25 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold in processing requirements in a device that transmits the first packet and the second packet.

30 ~~6. The method of Claim 5 wherein information included in the first packet forms a portion of a first stream between a source device and a destination device, and the source device transfers additional information in at least one~~

additional stream to or from another destination device, the method further comprising:

determining occurrence of the predetermined event when a predetermined number is exceeded by a total number of streams, including the additional stream and the first stream.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a third packet; and
determining occurrence of said predetermined event based on the third packet.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the third packet includes information to be played over a duration longer than the first duration, the method includes:
using the longer duration to decide occurrence of said predetermined event.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein:
information in the third packet is part of a conference call.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the first packet has a first size; and
the second packet has a second size, the second size being larger than the first size.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
forming said first packet and said second packet in conformance with UDP protocol of Internet.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
digitizing audio to generate the information.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising:
encoding the audio subsequent to digitizing.

14. ~~The method of Claim 1 wherein:~~

the information includes a plurality of snippets, each snippet having information received over a predetermined duration; and

the first packet includes a first number of snippets and the second packet includes a second number of snippets, the second number being a multiple of the first number.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein:

the multiple is 2

16. The method of Claim 14 further comprising maintaining a jitter buffer within a range defined by a maximum size and a minimum size by:

adding two copies of a snippet to the jitter buffer if a current size of the jitter buffer is smaller than a minimum size;

dropping a snippet if the current size of the jitter buffer is larger than a maximum size; and

adding the snippet to the jitter buffer if the current size of the jitter buffer is between maximum size and minimum size.

17. A device including:

a memory;

an information controller coupled to the memory for storing information in the memory;

a packet controller coupled to the memory for transmitting a plurality of packets stored in the memory; and

a processor that uses information of a first duration as payload in each of said packets prior to occurrence of a predetermined event, and uses information of a second duration as payload after occurrence of the predetermined event.

18. The device of Claim 17 wherein:

the predetermined event is related to processing requirements of said processor.

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